



## Bibles & Bows

January 21, 2025

2025 Theme

*Healthy Soul ~ Healthy Body*

Intro Book of Ruth

Ruth means Friendship in Hebrew.

Author: unknown

Ruth is story of love, devotion, and redemption set in the days of the Judges. After the time that the children enter the Promised Land but before the region of David.

But it's not a merely sweet story of rural life. **It's bluntly honest about the hardships and challenges faced by women in that society.**

Ruth's is an ancient story about a woman who challenges their society's prejudices with delicate, yet powerful narrative turns. **It demonstrates how the God of Israel works within the everyday lives of normal people to bring about personal, national, and universal redemption.**

Ruth was the ancient equivalent of an undocumented alien, hailing from an enemy foreign power. Everything from her accent to her hair to her dress would have broadcast to everyone in Bethlehem, "This girl ain't from around here."

On top of that, she was a religious outsider. She came from a land where people worshipped hideous idols and practiced human sacrifice. She had renounced her people's gods, but many of the good people of Bethlehem would be more than a little suspicious of her.

She was also a husbandless and sonless woman. In ancient Near Eastern society, where the value of women was largely based on their relationship to male relatives, that was a problem. Seeing as she had already been married for some time—perhaps even 10 years (Ruth 1:4)—and

failed to produce a son, her prospects of finding another husband were not great, to put it mildly. Without a male relative, Naomi and Ruth also had limited legal ability to  
When Ruth arrived in Bethlehem, she was the epitome of an outsider.

1. God is concerned about all people.
2. Men & Women are equally important to God.
3. In God's eyes there is no such thing as an unimportant person,
4. God uses little things to accomplish big things.
5. God has a Redeemer in place for each of us.

